

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION SCI-06

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R 310136Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3620

INFO FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

UNCLAS TOKYO 9921

SCI FOR BEAUBIEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, EIND, A

SUBJECT: DRUG REEVALUATION

ON JULY 29, 1974, AN ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE RELEASED ITS FINDINGS ON EFFICACY OF CERTAIN PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN USE IN JAPAN. THIS WAS THE SECOND DRUG REEVALUATION SURVEY UNDERTAKEN BY THE COUNCIL, COVERING FOUR CATEGORIES OF MEDICINE; VITAMINE B1 PREPARATIONS, ANALGESICS, MEDICINE FOR CIRCULATORY DISEASES, AND MEDICINE FOR PSYCHONEUROSIS. THE COUNCIL FOUND 101 OUT OF 943 ITEMS OF MEDICINE IN THESE CATEGORIES (11 PERCENT) TO BE INEFFICACIOUS, 410 (43 PERCENT) TO BE PARTIALLY EFFICACIOUS AND 432 (46 PERCENT) TO BE EFFICACIOUS. THE COUNCIL'S FINDINGS ARE TO BE FOLLOWED BY MHW ACTION IN ORDERING MANUFACTURERS OF THESE INEFFICACIOUS DRUGS TO SUSPEND THEIR MANUFACTURE AND SALE AND RECALL PRODUCTS. THE RESULTS ALSO SHOW THAT 149 ITEMS WERE IMPROPERLY LABELED AS TO THEIR VIRTUES. ON THESE DRUGS, MHW WILL ORDER MAKERS TO MODIFY STATEMENT OF VIRTUES WITHIN ONE MONTH. DETAILS OF THE REPORT WILL BE COVERED IN A SEPARATE AIRGRAM.

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